COMMUNITY

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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COMMUNITY

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Is your air safe?

Feria gratuita busca ampliar el acceso universitario a estudiantes y familias de Detroit

Por Andrés Ospina

En el suroeste de Detroit, muchos estudiantes y familias latinas enfrentan dudas sobre por dónde comenzar el proceso universitario, cómo aplicar y cómo costearlo. Una feria universitaria local, que se llevará a cabo este sábado 18 de abril, busca reunir esas respuestas en un solo lugar.

Organizada por la Sociedad de Ingenieros Profesionales Hispanos (SHPE) Detroit, la quinta Feria Universitaria Anual se realizará de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. en Western International High School, ubicada en 1500 Scotten St. El evento gratuito conectará a estudiantes y familias con instituciones, universidades y organizaciones comunitarias, además de ofrecer recursos bilingües para facilitar el camino hacia la educación superior.

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Detroit City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero led the ribbon cutting at the 4th Annual SHPE Detroit College Fair in 2025 hosted at La Casa Guadalupana, inspiring students to pursue opportunities in STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Free College Fair Aims to Expand Access for Detroit Students and Families

By Andrés Ospina

In Southwest Detroit, many Latino students and families face questions about where to begin the college process, how to apply and how to afford it. A local college fair taking place this Saturday, April 18, aims to bring those answers together in one place.

Organized by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Detroit, the 5th Annual College Fair will take place from 10am to 2pm at Western International High School, located at 1500 Scotten St. The free event will connect students and families with colleges, universities and community organizations while offering bilingual resources to help navigate the path to higher education.

"This college fair is about access, opportunity, and support," said

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Construyendo esperanza juntos: Strangers No Longer crea una comunidad en apoyo de las familias inmigrantes

Por Odalis Perales

Un espíritu de resiliencia basado en la esperanza y la fe inundó el Ukrainian Cultural Center este pasado fin de semana, cuando Strangers No Longer (SNL) celebró su quinto banquete anual. Bajo el lema Construyendo comunidad juntos, 400 líderes de Círculos de Apoyo, la mayoría de ellos de parroquias católicas, y aliados de todo el estado se reunieron para celebrar una misión arraigada en la fe por darle la bienvenida al extranjero y apoyar a las familias inmigrantes que se enfrentan a un clima cada vez más hostil e incierto.

"En un año de agitación política y casi desesperación, se nos recuerda que nuestra esperanza está en nuestras amistades, nuestros sistemas de apoyo y las personas con las que compartimos este viaje", afirmó la presidenta de la junta directiva, Judy Brooks. "Strangers No Longer proporciona la alegría y la esperanza que puede aportar el trabajar juntos como comunidad."

La tarde comenzó con las palabras de la presidenta del banquete y coordinadora del Consejo Estatal, Nancy J., quien reconoció una dolorosa realidad: muchas de las familias inmigrantes a las que SNL presta servicio no pudieron estar presentes. El aumento de las detenciones, las deportaciones y las separaciones familiares ha creado una atmósfera de miedo,

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Emmanuel F. shared with Strangers No Longer supporters the harrowing ordeal his father endured when he was detained by ICE.

Building Hope Together: Strangers No Longer Creates Community in Support of Immigrant Families

By Odalis Perales

A spirit of resilience grounded in hope and faith filled the Ukrainian Cultural Center this past weekend, as Strangers No Longer (SNL) hosted its fifth annual banquet. Under the theme "Building Community Together," 400 Circle of Support leaders, most of them from Catholic parishes, and allies from across the state gathered to celebrate a mission rooted in faith by welcoming the stranger and supporting immigrant families navigating an increasingly hostile and uncertain climate.

"In a year of political turmoil and near despair, we are reminded that our hope lies in our friendships, our support systems, the people with whom we share this journey," said Board President Judy Brooks. "Strangers No Longer provides the joy and hope that working together as a community can bring."

The afternoon opened with remarks from SNL's banquet chair and Consejo Estatal Coordinator Nancy J., who acknowledged a painful reality: many of the immigrant families SNL serves could not be present. Rising detentions, deportations, and family separations have created an atmosphere of fear, stress, and trauma that keeps many in the shadows.

This reality came into sharper focus through the testimony of youth leader

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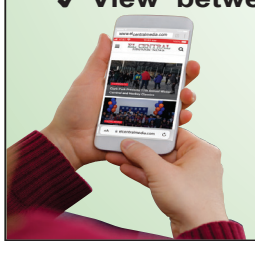
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS



La ayuda está a tres números de distancia
211
NO-EMERGENCIAS
El 211 te conecta con ayuda amable de expertos. Todas las llamadas son completamente confidenciales.
Los Comestible
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COMIENZA CON FAFSA

Sin importar los ingresos de su hogar, vale la pena completar la Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (también conocida como la **FAFSA**, por sus siglas en inglés). Es la clave para desbloquear **dinero para la universidad o la formación profesional**, incluyendo algunas becas que no se basan tanto en los ingresos como podría pensarse (como la **Beca de Logros de Michigan** y la **Garantía de Colegios Comunitarios**).

La mayoría de las familias completan la FAFSA en 30 minutos o menos.

Qué necesitarás:

- Cuentas StudentAid.gov
- Números de Seguro Social
- Información de ingresos y bancos

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Celebrate Mother's Day with the legendary Mariachi Vargas!
Bring the whole family for an unforgettable evening of passion, tradition, and music as the world's most celebrated mariachi ensemble, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, takes the stage at the Detroit Opera House. Founded in 1897 in Jalisco, Mexico, and now led by musical director Carlos Martínez, Mariachi Vargas continues its extraordinary six-generation legacy of excellence—hailed across the globe as "El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo."
Tickets on sale at DetroitOperaHouse.com | 313.237.7464 | 1526 Broadway St. Detroit

Cinco de Mile 5K Fun Run for Mental Health Awareness Kicks Off the Holiday in Southwest Detroit

Fun Run supports Mental Health Awareness Month on Saturday, May 2, 2026

To kick off Mental Health Awareness month this May, the Latinas that represent Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc. (DTL) - Alpha Lambda Professional Chapter is hosting Cinco de Mile – a 5k Fun Run for Mental Health Awareness to highlight the importance of mental health and, fundraise for programs servicing their communities. This is their 5th year hosting the fundraiser that supports the local Mental Health programs. This year they will hosting the event at Patton Park in the heart of Southwest Detroit. They expect at least 100 participants to run or walk 3.1 Miles around the park–collecting colored beads to mark their progress and welcomed by a hype squad at the finish line.

This event raises awareness of mental health and delivers resources to the community by providing information about UNI's mental health and wellness resources such as Short-term Counseling and Mental Health Advocate (MHA) programs. Furthermore, local partners such as MiSide, CHASS, and Amigos are invited to do outreach at the event.

Participants will receive a T-shirt in Mexican colors in the spirit of Cinco de Mayo holiday to continue the fun and tradition of the local "holiday" as well as collect beads in Mexican colors. There will be a Zumba warm-up by Roberto before the run and there will be snacks and beverages provided at the end of the race. Participants can also enjoy the festivities at the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta that starts at noon in the Patton Park parking lot.

Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Their mission is to deliver resources to their communities, unify the people of those communities, and raise money for principal charitable causes: Breast Cancer, Diabetes, AIDS Awareness, and Mental Health. The ladies of the Alpha Lambda Professional Chapter want to be changemakers in their communities which is why they are hosting, volunteering, and participating in the Fun Run.

Register for the event here:

Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit Announces Plans for the 2026 Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta

The Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade & Fiesta is organized by the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit, made-up of volunteers from Southwest Detroit. Each year, they work hard to organize, manage, coordinate, and conduct the parade for the enjoyment of their community and the pride in their Mexican culture.

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, the festivities begin at 12noon at the Patton Recreation Center. The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will run on Saturday and Sunday from 12-8pm. The entertainment will be filled with Folkloric dancing, Live Bands, Mariachis, a DJ, and a Selena Tribute. And back by popular demand, the fiesta will host a thrilling exhibition by the Southwest Championship Wrestling Team.

On Sunday, May 3, 2026, Southwest Detroit can watch the parade of floats, dance groups, school marching bands, charros, and performers along 2.4 miles of the W. Vernor corridor from Patton Park to Clark Park. The parade honors the Battle of Puebla, fought on May 5, 1862, under Mexican President Benito Juárez. He leaves a legacy of unwavering resistance, enduring freedom, and profound pride for the Mexican people. The parade starts at 12 Noon, rain or shine!

This year's parade theme is "Estamos Unidos" (We Are United), as a commitment to bringing people together to reflect the unity, strength, and pride that defines our community. The Committee encourages all parade participants to decorate in this year's theme. A Grand Prize Winner for the best theme representation of cars, walkers, and floats will be announced. Winners receive a trophy as well as free admission in next year's parade.

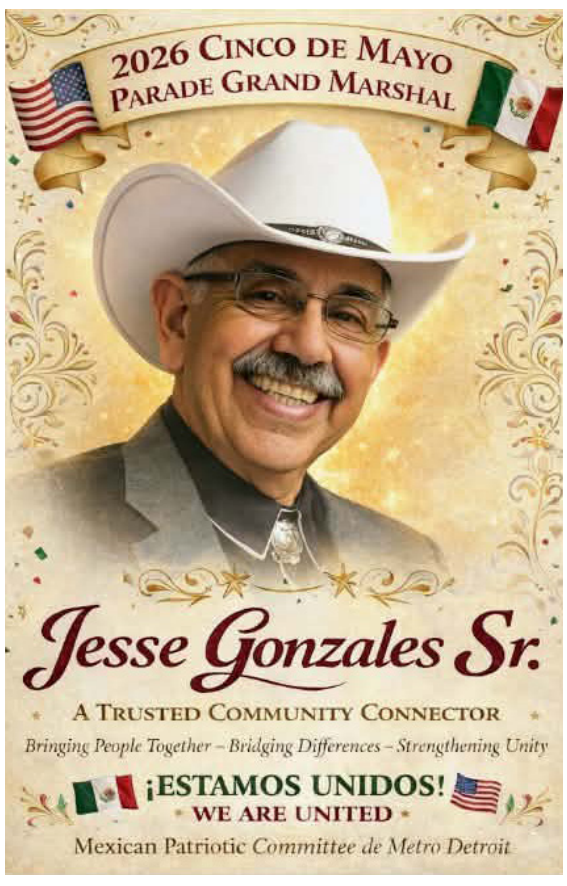
With great pride and deep respect, the Committee is honored to announce that Jesse Gonzales Sr. will serve as the 2026 Cinco de Mayo Parade Grand Marshal. Through his service and example, Jesse has helped uplift others and strengthen the bonds that make Southwest Detroit such a vibrant and resilient community.

Lastly, the parade will be culturally inclusive of all Latino ethnicities that make up the rich fabric of Southwest Detroit. The Committee will also waive all fees for School Marching Bands to join in the procession for the enjoyment of the community and its visitors.

Register for the Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta at the MPC office located at 7752 W. Vernor near Central Ave. from 12noon-4pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturdays.

Learn more at detroitcinco-demayoparade.com and follow MPC on Facebook for the latest updates to the parade and celebrations at @mexicanpa-trioticcommitteeofdetroit or www.mpcdetroit.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CINCO de MAYO FIESTA & PARADE 2026
¡ESTAMOS UNIDOS! • WE ARE UNITED!
Help us create a safe, welcoming celebration for thousands of families in Southwest Detroit!
Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit
VOLUNTEER PERKS
Official Mexican Patriotic Committee Volunteer Shirt
Food Tickets Provided to All Volunteers
VOLUNTEER MEET-UP LOCATION
Patton Park Recreation Center
2301 Woodmere St,
Detroit, MI 48209
PARADE VOLUNTEERS
Sunday, May 3, 2026
Shift Begins at 8:00 AM
Assist with parade line-up, staging, and route coordination.
VOLUNTEER ROLES
Event Set-Up & Breakdown
Parade Line-Up Assistance
Vendor Support
Guest Assistance
Activity Support
FIESTA VOLUNTEERS
Saturday, May 2, 2026
Sunday, May 3, 2026
4-Hour Shifts Available
All volunteers must be 18 years or older.
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
Laura L.Chavez
Founder of Raíces Detroit
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Chairperson
313.404.0850
laura.chavez@raicesdetroit.com
Mexican Patriotic Committee de Metro Detroit


2026 CINCO DE MAYO
PARADE GRAND MARSHAL
Jesse Gonzales Sr.
A TRUSTED COMMUNITY CONNECTOR
Bringing People Together – Bridging Differences – Strengthening Unity
¡ESTAMOS UNIDOS!
WE ARE UNITED
Mexican Patriotic Committee de Metro Detroit

Strangers No Longer Creates Community in Support of Immigrant Families

Continued from page 1

Emmanuel F., who shared the story of his father's detention and deportation last summer after more than 30 years of building a life in Michigan. "My father is not a criminal," he said. "He only wanted a better future for our family, and he was working hard to make that future happen. Now, he has been taken away from us." His story, while deeply personal, reflects a growing pattern. SNL continues to see an increase in families in need of support after being devastated by federal immigration enforcement.

Rev. Marge Palmerlee of Hope for Neighbors in Grand Rapids offered further insight into these realities, drawing from her visits to detained immigrants at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan. She described conditions marked by pervasive isolation, uncertainty, and neglect, noting that the vast majority of those detained, between 85% and 90%, have no criminal convictions.

She recounted a visit in which she noticed a young woman wearing a red uniform, the designated color used to mark those labeled as having a criminal background –a practice that further isolates individuals and gnaws at their mental health. When she asked about the woman's offense, she learned it was for simply being a passenger in a vehicle with an expired license plate tab. "At play," Rev. Palmerlee concluded, "is a system designed to rob people of hope."

While sobering, these stories did not leave the room in despair. Instead, they clarified the purpose that had brought attendees together: to restore that hope. If systems are stripping it away, SNL and its partners are committed to rebuilding it through accompaniment, advocacy, and community.

"This is about standing with immigrants, to be sure," commented an SNL Circle of Support leader, "but it is also a movement for all of us—a shared struggle for humanity, equality, and dignity, and ultimately, a struggle to save our own souls and the soul of our country."

The afternoon closed with blessing by the twenty nuns present and an invitation from Board member Flor C. to SNL's upcoming Assembly for Hope on June 29, 2026. The gathering will bring together community members, local police chiefs, elected officials, and the Michigan Attorney General to engage in a critical conversation about public safety for all, regardless of immigration status, and how local and state policies can better reflect shared community values.

Flor urged attendees to extend that invitation outward. "Many immigrants cannot raise their voices out of fear," she said. "So those of us who can must do so, with them and for them."

At its core, the banquet was not only a reflection on the challenges immigrant communities face, but a testament to what is possible when people come together in solidarity. Strangers No Longer continues to cultivate spaces of belonging and hope—proving that even in difficult times, community remains a powerful force for change.

For more information about Strangers No Longer, the upcoming Assembly for Hope, or how to start a Circle of Support in your parish, neighborhood, or organization, contact Executive Director, Bill O'Brien at obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org or Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Odalis Perales at perales.o@strangersnolonger.org.

Strangers No Longer crea una comunidad en apoyo de las familias inmigrantes

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estrés y trauma que mantiene a muchos en la sombra.

Esta realidad se puso aún más de manifiesto a través del testimonio del líder juvenil Emmanuel F., quien compartió la historia de la detención y deportación de su padre el verano pasado, tras más de 30 años construyendo una vida en Míchigan. "Mi padre no es un criminal," dijo Emmanuel. "Solo quería un futuro mejor para nuestra familia, y estaba trabajando duro para hacer realidad ese futuro. Ahora nos lo han quitado." Su historia, aunque profundamente personal, refleja una tendencia creciente. SNL sigue observando un aumento de familias que necesitan apoyo tras haber sido devastadas por las medidas federales de control de la inmigración.

La reverenda Marge Palmerlee, de Hope for Neighbors en Grand Rapids, ofreció una visión más profunda de estas realidades, basándose en sus visitas a inmigrantes detenidos en el North Lake Processing Center, en Baldwin, Míchigan. Describió unas condiciones marcadas por el aislamiento, la incertidumbre y el abandono, y señaló que la gran mayoría de los detenidos, entre el 85 % y el 90 %, no tienen condenas criminales.

Relató una visita en la que se fijó en una joven que llevaba un uniforme rojo, el color designado para identificar a quienes tienen antecedentes penales —una práctica que aísla aún más a las personas y merma su salud mental. Cuando preguntó sobre el delito de la mujer, se enteró de que se trataba simplemente de haber viajado como pasajera en un vehículo con placa caducada. "Lo que está en juego," concluyó la reverenda Palmerlee, "es un sistema diseñado para robar la esperanza a las personas."

Aunque tristes y difíciles, estas historias no dejaron a los presentes sumidos en la desesperación. Al contrario, aclararon el propósito que los había reunido: restaurar esa esperanza. Si los sistemas la están arrebatando, SNL y sus aliados se comprometen a reconstruirla a través del acompañamiento, la defensa legislativa, y la comunidad.

"Se trata de apoyar a los inmigrantes, sin duda," comentó una líder del Círculo de Apoyo de SNL, "pero también es un movimiento para todos nosotros: una lucha compartida por la humanidad, la igualdad y la dignidad y, en última instancia, una lucha por salvar nuestras propias almas y el alma de nuestro país."

La tarde concluyó con una bendición de las veinte monjas presentes y una invitación de la miembro de la junta directiva, Flor C., a la próxima Asamblea por la Esperanza de SNL, que tendrá lugar el 29 de junio de 2026. La asamblea reunirá a miembros de la comunidad, jefes de policía locales, funcionarios electos, y la fiscal general para tener un diálogo urgente sobre la seguridad pública para todos, independientemente del estatus migratorio, y sobre cómo las políticas locales y estatales pueden reflejar mejor los valores comunitarios.

Flor invitó a los asistentes a difundir esta invitación. "Muchos inmigrantes no pueden alzar la voz por miedo," dijo. "Así que aquellos de nosotros que podamos hacerlo, debemos hacerlo, con ellos y por ellos."

En esencia, el banquete no solo fue una reflexión sobre los retos a los que se enfrentan las comunidades de inmigrantes, sino también un testimonio de lo que es posible cuando las personas se unen en solidaridad. Strangers No Longer sigue cultivando espacios de pertenencia y esperanza, demostrando que, incluso en tiempos difíciles, la comunidad sigue siendo una poderosa fuerza de cambio.

Para obtener más información sobre Strangers No Longer, la próxima Asamblea por la Esperanza o cómo iniciar un Círculo de Apoyo en su parroquia, barrio u organización, póngase en contacto con el director ejecutivo, Bill O'Brien, en obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org, o con la directora de alianzas estratégicas, Odalis Perales, en perales.o@strangersnolonger.org.

Cuba's Triple Crisis: Economy, Politics, Society

ANN ARBOR—As Cuba grapples with an economic collapse, political instability and social unrest, the failure of the revolutionary model has reached a definitive turning point.

Silvia Pedraza is a professor of sociology and American culture at the University of Michigan who has spent years documenting the evolution of the Cuban Revolution and its impact on its citizens. Applying her expertise in the island's political shift and the resulting movement, she discusses how the loss of revolutionary legitimacy and the crumbling of state infrastructure have forced mass exodus.

What is the nature of the current multifaceted crisis facing Cuba and why is the revolutionary model considered a failure?

Economically, Cuba currently has nothing to export other than doctors. For most of its history, it was the world's leading sugar producer. But it failed to invest in repairing and upgrading its sugar mills, which sorely needed it. A few years before his death, Fidel Castro put the last nail in the coffin by shutting down more than half of them. Thus, today Cuba only has doctors to export, which is another problem—turning people into commodities and not giving the doctors adequate salaries for their work.

Politically, Cuba at present lacks legitimacy for its government. After Fidel Castro died, his messianic and charismatic leadership ended. His reign was followed by Raúl Castro, his brother, who always supported him, backing him up with the military. Raúl lacked Fidel's charisma—his ability to turn every problem in Cuba into a vision of the people's need to sacrifice for a better future. Raúl was a reformer, and he tried to introduce some market reforms, allowing some self-employment in Cuba, though his reforms were not large enough to make a significant difference. Raúl did succeed in the international scene, as, together with Obama, he restored political relations between Cuba and the U.S. Both Fidel and Raúl had the legitimacy of having fought in the Cuban Revolution, rendering it victorious. Raúl chose Miguel Díaz-Canel, the new president, as his successor. Díaz-Canel, however, lacks the legitimacy of the Revolution, is not at all charismatic, and has not been able to manage the Cuban economy to solve any of its problems.

Both the economic and political troubles on the island have resulted in strong and wide social protests from the people, who no longer believe in the vision of sacrificing themselves for a better future and who are daily beset with real problems: lacking food for sustenance, lacking gasoline for transport, and suffering blackouts from a lack of electricity. They live on the remittances they receive from relatives and friends who long ago left the island—either pushed out as exiles or as refugees who simply sought a better life elsewhere—in the U.S., Spain and Latin America. From a nation that used to be 11.2 million people only a decade ago, today estimates put the nation at close to only 8 million people. It is a sad ending for a nation that, despite the inequalities in its midst when the Revolution triumphed (of social class and race, as well as gender), was prosperous. The communist utopia in which so many believed, and for which so many sacrificed, simply failed—completely.

Kresge Arts Fellowship Fuels Creativity and Community

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

2025 Kresge Artist Fellows, pictured not necessarily R to L: Elise Marie Martin, Taurus Burns, Louis Aguilar, Maya Davis, Kimberly LaVonne, Slumdog Visionaire, Marwa Helal, Donald Calloway, Brittany Rogers, Beenish Ahmed, Ivan Montoya, April Anue Shipp, Allana Clarke, Malak Cherri, Anetria Cole. Photo by Jenny Risher

For Kimberly LaVonne, being one of the fifteen Kresge Arts fellows meant showcasing her ceramic art inspired by her Panamanian culture. LaVonne's trek to her family's home in Panama is shown in her short film which was directed by John Sippel.

"Since my work is so much about my family, my heritage and memory, what if we could actually go there and visit Panama?" said LaVonne, reflecting on the decision to take her short film to Panama.

"The fellowship funds not just the artists, but the conditions that make the work possible," said Jeni De La O, Assistant Director of the Kresge Arts in Detroit and previous fellow of the program.

This year's Kresge Artist Showcase Film Premier featured fourteen of the fifteen Kresge Fellowship winners from the 2025 Literary Arts and Visual Arts competition. The prize for each winner was a $50,000 award, up from last year's $40,000 award. The Kresge Arts Fellowship is open to residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb county. There are other stipulations which are mentioned on the Kresge Arts in Detroit at www.kresgeartsindetroit.org.

Louis Aguilar, notable for his journalistic endeavors at the Detroit News, is one of the 2025 Kresge Arts Fellows. He intends to write a book about Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera's time in Detroit. This is Aguilar's second time as a Kresge Arts Fellow.

"I want to write it like a novel, although it's creative nonfiction," said Aguilar. With the award, he hopes to carve out some time away to acquire a literary agent and to finish the book.

The dollars are unrestricted to take into account cost of materials, childcare, rent, paying collaborators, and general understanding of the financial obstacles that often get in the way of making art.

"The money is supporting the arts, but that money goes right back into the community. So it does impact the business side too," De La O said. "Having a thriving arts ecosystem creates a healthy community."

The short films series has been made available through scheduled airings on Detroit PBS, the Kresge Arts in Detroit website under each artist's individual page, and through the Kresge Arts in Detroit social media page. The films were a collaborative effort where selected filmmakers were matched with artist fellows to create a short film and guided by producers Angelina Starceski and Donald Harrison.

As part of her advice to younger artists, LaVonne encourages them to embrace uncertainty as a sign of growth, noting that it's okay to make "messes." The fellowship does just that. It gives artists the opportunity to experiment and make more art.

"I have found that when things start to feel uneasy, or I get scared, to try something new and just keeping making [art]," said Lavonne.

Key to the fellowship is a call to artists from all walks of life, including self-trained artists, academically-trained artists, and those taught through cultural traditions. The program runs through an alternating two-year cycle, focusing on literary and visual arts in one cycle, and live arts and film in the next.

The 2026 live arts and film arts fellows will be announced in the summer. Applications for the 2027 literary arts and visual arts fellowship will open in the fall of this year.

"Don't count yourself out. Don't say no on behalf of the panelists. Give them a chance to see your art," De La O said. "No one is telling you exactly what to do because the whole idea is that your artistry is being recognized here."

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Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Write Your Book in a Day
A Transformational Workshop at Michigan Central Station

Sunday, April 26, 2026, | 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Detroit, MI — Aspiring authors across Metro Detroit are invited to take bold action on their book dreams at Write Your Book in a Day, an immersive, high-energy workshop presented by Two Sisters Writing & Publishing in collaboration with Detroit Writing Room.

Held inside the iconic Michigan Central Station, this full-day intensive is designed to help participants stop overthinking and start writing — with clarity, structure, and momentum.

Every attendee will receive a copy of the bestselling workbook, Write Your Book in a Day, currently ranked #2 on Amazon's Hot New Releases list in Editing & Writing Reference. The book will serve as the official workbook for the day, complete with guided exercises and built-in outline pages participants will actively complete during the workshop.

By the end of the experience, attendees will:

- Clarify their book's central theme and purpose
- Identify their target audience
- Craft a strategic roadmap for writing and publishing
- Develop a structured book outline
- Leave with tangible progress — not just inspiration

"Too many people carry the idea of a book for years," says Elizabeth Ann Atkins, bestselling author and co-founder of Two Sisters Writing & Publishing. "This workshop gives them the framework, accountability, and tools to finally move forward."

Two Sisters Writing & Publishing is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year, having published nearly 70 books across memoir, business, and inspirational genres — with many more currently in development.

An early bird discount is currently available for a limited time.

Register at https://bit.ly/4805MKS and order the book on Amazon.

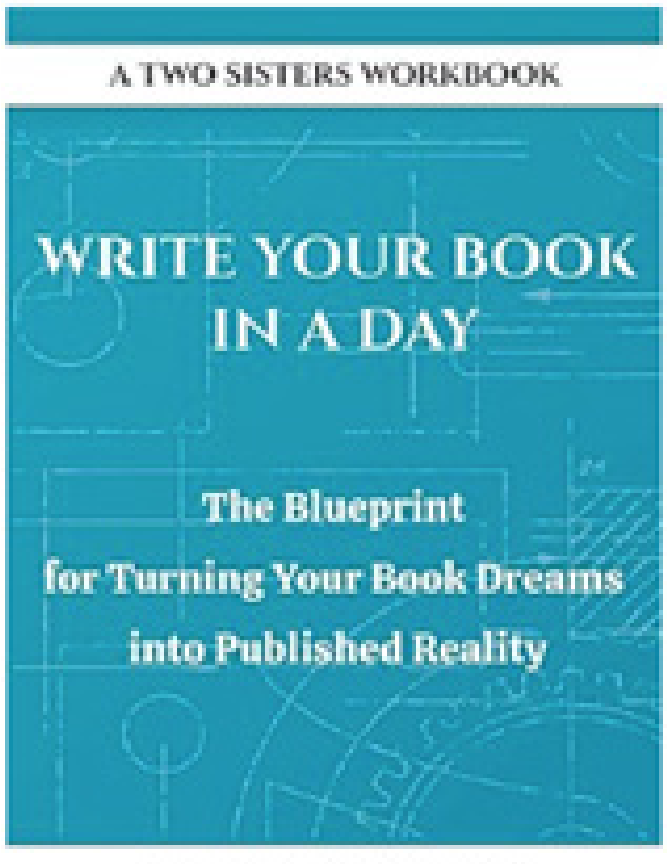
Seats are limited for this transformational day of focused writing and strategy. A select number of Boys & Girls Club of Greater Detroit students will be able to attend for free.

About Two Sisters Writing & Publishing®

Founded in 2016, Two Sisters Writing & Publishing® helps aspiring authors write, publish, and promote powerful books that inspire, educate, and transform. The company is celebrating 10 years of publishing excellence and nearly 70 published titles.

About The Detroit Writing Room

Co-founded by Stephanie Steinberg, The Detroit Writing Room is a creative hub offering workshops, coaching, and community for writers at every stage. Based in Detroit, it supports aspiring and established authors in developing their craft, strengthening their voice, and bringing meaningful stories to life.


A TWO SISTERS WORKBOOK
WRITE YOUR BOOK IN A DAY
The Blueprint for Turning Your Book Dreams into Published Reality
ELIZABETH ANN ATKINS
CATHERINE M. GREENSPAN

PUENTE INTERNACIONAL GORDIE HOWE
REUNIONES PÚBLICAS DE INFORMACIÓN

EL PROYECTO
El proyecto del Puente Internacional Gordie Howe entre Windsor, Ontario y Detroit, Michigan, ayudará a mover bienes y personas de manera más eficiente en este importante portal comercial. Gestionado por Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), y en colaboración con el Estado de Michigan, el proyecto se está llevando a cabo utilizando un modelo de asociación público-privada, conforme al cual Bridging North America diseñará, construirá, financiará, operará y dará mantenimiento al puente.

PARTICIPACIÓN DEL PÚBLICO
Le invitamos a asistir a la reunion públicas de información sobre el puente internacional Gordie Howe, que tendrán lugar de forma presencial el miércoles 22 de abril de 2026 en Detroit, Michigan. En estas reuniones se ofrecerán actualizaciones sobre el funcionamiento del puente, las cuentas de cliente Breakaway y las tarifas de peaje. Asista para charlar con los representantes de WDBA y abrir una cuenta.

REUNION PÚBLICAS DE INFORMACIÓN
CHASS CENTER
5635 WEST FORT STREET, DETROIT
22 DE ABRIL DE 2026
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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Feria gratuita busca ampliar el acceso universitario

Continuado de la página 1

"Esta feria universitaria trata sobre acceso, oportunidad y apoyo", dijo Maridy Mazaira, presidenta de SHPE Detroit. "Para muchos estudiantes y familias latinas, el proceso universitario puede resultar confuso o abrumador, especialmente para quienes son la primera generación en asistir a la universidad". Añadió que el evento está diseñado para crear un ambiente acogedor

donde las familias puedan hacer preguntas en inglés o en español y relacionarse directamente con las instituciones.

Los organizadores señalan que la feria va más allá de una exhibición universitaria tradicional al ofrecer orientación práctica tanto para estudiantes como para sus familias. Representantes de universidades, instituciones y organizaciones comunitarias estarán disponibles durante todo el día, brindando a los asistentes la oportunidad de explorar programas académicos, requisitos de admisión y servicios de apoyo en un solo lugar. El evento también incluirá talleres bilingües sobre temas clave como la Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (FAFSA), opciones de ayuda financiera y cómo navegar el proceso de solicitud universitaria.

"Muchas familias no asisten a ferias universitarias tradicionales debido al costo, las barreras del idioma o porque no están seguras de cómo funciona el proceso universitario", dijo Mazaira. Señaló que cuando las familias comprenden mejor el proceso, están mejor preparadas para apoyar a sus hijos.

La feria también busca introducir a los estudiantes a oportunidades académicas y profesionales a largo plazo, especialmente en áreas de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, artes y matemáticas, conocidas como STEAM. Ampliar el acceso a estos campos sigue siendo una prioridad clave para SHPE Detroit, ya que suelen estar asociados con mayores ingresos y mayor estabilidad económica.

Las familias que asistan al evento pueden esperar experiencias interactivas, incluyendo actividades basadas en STEAM, demostraciones en vivo y kits diseñados para fomentar el aprendizaje continuo. También se realizarán rifas de computadoras portátiles y tabletas para incentivar la participación estudiantil.

Para muchos asistentes, el valor del evento radica en las conexiones que pueden establecer. Mazaira señaló que incluso una sola conversación puede influir en el camino de un estudiante. "Espero que los estudiantes se vayan sintiéndose inspirados y más seguros sobre su futuro", dijo. "Queremos que sepan que la universidad es posible y que hay personas dispuestas a apoyarlos en el camino".

La feria universitaria es gratuita y los organizadores alientan a las familias a participar juntas. Habrá apoyo en español durante todo el evento para garantizar la accesibilidad de todos los asistentes.

En los últimos cinco años, el evento ha crecido de manera constante tanto en asistencia como en alcance. Lo que comenzó como una reunión más pequeña se ha convertido en un recurso comunitario clave, con una mayor participación de estudiantes, universidades y organizaciones locales. La programación ampliada ahora incluye talleres bilingües, paneles profesionales y actividades prácticas de STEAM orientadas a apoyar mejor a las familias.

"Uno de los momentos más significativos para mí fue escuchar a un estudiante que asistió a una de nuestras ferias hace algunos años", recordó Mazaira. "Compartió que se había graduado de un colegio comunitario y que ahora asistía a una universidad para obtener su licenciatura. Historias como esta muestran el impacto real que puede tener este evento".

La iniciativa también ha recibido apoyo de socios corporativos y comunitarios, incluidos Ford Hispanic and Latino Network, General Motors Latino Network, DTE Foundation y Detroit Public Schools Community District. Estas alianzas han ayudado a ampliar los esfuerzos de alcance y a conectar a más estudiantes y familias con recursos valiosos.

A pesar de su crecimiento, los organizadores enfatizan que la feria sigue enfocada en las familias que pueden sentirse inseguras sobre el proceso universitario. "Este evento fue creado para ustedes", señaló Mazaira. "No necesitan saberlo todo antes de asistir. Vengan con sus preguntas o simplemente con curiosidad. A veces el paso más difícil es presentarse, y estamos aquí para apoyar a las familias en cada paso del camino".

La inscripción está disponible en línea, aunque se espera que se permita la entrada sin registro previo según el espacio disponible. El evento anual forma parte de la misión más amplia de SHPE Detroit de ampliar el acceso a oportunidades educativas y profesionales mediante la conexión de estudiantes con recursos, mentoría y trayectorias profesionales.

La feria del 18 de abril marca el quinto año en que la organización realiza el evento, continuando sus esfuerzos por cerrar brechas de información e inspirar a los estudiantes a seguir la educación superior y carreras en campos de alta demanda. Más información y registro gratuito están disponibles en:

https://2026collegefair.eventbrite.com

Free College Fair Aims to Expand Access

Continued from page 1

Maridy Mazaira, president of SHPE Detroit. "For many Latino students and families the college process can feel confusing or overwhelming, especially for first-generation families." She added that the event is designed to create a welcoming environment where attendees can ask questions in English or Spanish and engage directly with institutions.

Organizers say the fair goes beyond a traditional college showcase by offering practical, hands-on guidance for both students and their families. Representatives from colleges, universities and community organizations will be available throughout the day, giving attendees the opportunity to explore academic programs, admissions requirements and support services in one place. The event will also feature bilingual workshops covering key topics such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), financial aid options and navigating the college application process.

"Many families may not attend traditional college fairs because of cost, language barriers, or because they are unsure how the college process works," Mazaira said. She noted that when families better understand the process, they are more equipped to support their children through it.

The fair also aims to introduce students to long-term academic and career opportunities, particularly in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, or STEAM. Expanding access to these fields remains a key priority for SHPE Detroit, as they are often associated with higher earning potential and greater economic stability.

Families attending the event can expect interactive experiences, including STEAM-based activities, live demonstrations and take-home kits designed to encourage continued learning. Raffles for laptops and tablets will also be held throughout the day, providing additional incentives for student participation.

For many attendees, the value of the event lies in the connections they are able to make. Mazaira noted that even a single conversation can influence a student's path. "I hope students leave feeling inspired and more confident about their future," she said. "We want students to leave knowing that college is possible and that there are people ready to support them along the way."

The college fair is free to attend, and organizers encourage families to participate together. Spanish -language support will be available throughout the event to ensure accessibility for all attendees.

Over the past five years, the event has grown steadily in both attendance and scope. What began as a smaller gathering has evolved into a key community resource, with increasing participation from students, colleges and local organizations. Expanded programming now includes bilingual workshops, professional panels and hands-on STEAM activities aimed at better supporting families.

"One of the most meaningful moments for me was hearing from a student who attended one of our college fairs a few years ago," SHPE Detroit President Maridy Mazaira recalled. "He shared that he had graduated from community college and was now attending a university pursuing his bachelor's degree. Stories like this show the real impact this event can have."

The initiative has also gained support from corporate and community partners, including the Ford Hispanic & Latino Network, the General Motors Latino Network, the DTE Foundation and Detroit Public Schools Community District. These partnerships have helped broaden outreach efforts and connect more students and families with valuable resources.

Despite its growth, organizers emphasize that the fair remains focused on families who may feel uncertain about the college process. "This event was created for you," Mazaira noted. "You don't need to know everything before you attend. Come with your questions or simply curiosity. Sometimes the hardest step is showing up, and we are here to support families every step of the way."

Registration is available online, though walk-ins are expected to be accommodated as space allows. The annual event is part of SHPE Detroit's broader mission to expand access to educational and professional opportunities by connecting students with resources, mentorship and career pathways.

The April 18 fair marks the fifth year the organization has hosted the event, continuing its efforts to bridge information gaps and inspire students to pursue higher education and careers in high-demand fields. More information and free registration are available at: https://2026collegefair.eventbrite.com

Andrés Ospina is a Detroit-based freelance journalist and business consultant covering business, entrepreneurship and economic development. Originally from Colombia, he holds a double major in Communications and Journalism and an MBA from the University of Exeter (UK). His work connects the dots between his experience supporting small businesses, startups and organizations and his background in journalism, bringing a practitioner's perspective to the stories he tells.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Welcoming Downtown Spaces for Detroit Youth

Are there enough?

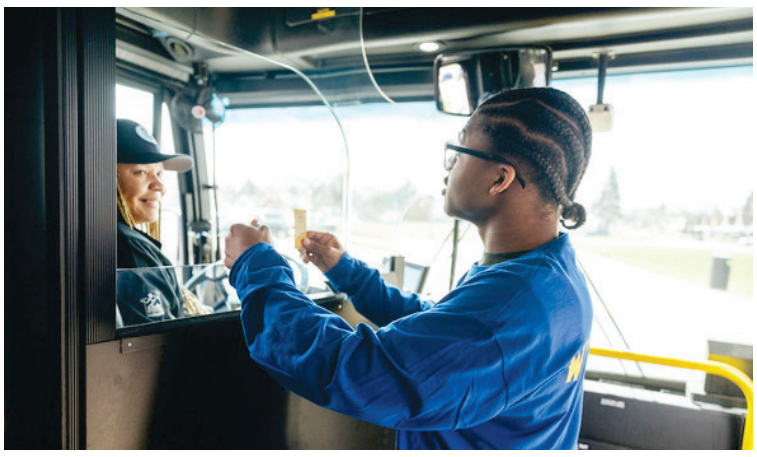
by Christine Ferretti • Reprinted with permission from Bridge Detroit

Detroit City Council members are advocating for more inclusive spaces for youth in the city's core in the wake of a new program offering broad access to free bus rides. The need for more welcoming spaces was raised Monday by City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero after a series of public commenters shared concerns for and about youth during the council's Public Health and Safety subcommittee meeting.

(from left) Detroit City Council members Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Latisha Johnson and Denzel McCampbell. Credit: City of Detroit Flickr

The city this month launched the "Ride to Rise" program, offering Detroit students ages 5 to 18 at public, private or charter schools free Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) bus rides seven days a week, at any time. All they have to do is show their school ID. The initiative is expected to help students get to school more consistently and to access afterschool activities.

In recent days, Detroit saw an influx of visitors for the Detroit Tigers' Opening Day as well as a surge of young people downtown, which resulted in some being detained by officers.



Having the City provide bus fare for all students will relieve schools of the administrative and financial burden so they can reinvest those resources into their students in other meaningful ways.

Santiago-Romero said she was concerned that youth were "overpoliced downtown" over the weekend and she's eager to talk with Mayor Mary Sheffield's administration about how officials and law enforcement can better support and engage with youth.

"Because, let's be honest, downtown does become a place for adults to come and drink but we need to have a welcoming place and inviting space for youth as well," she said.

She also said discussions on wraparound services for young people as well as "deescalation training," are necessary, "not just for young people but for all of us."

"This is going to be another cultural shift that we need to do in embracing our young people downtown," she said. "After budget (deliberations) we will invite the administration's dedicated person for youth to share with us some plans they have for the summer. We know for the summer people are outside and we want to make sure that people are safe."

Santiago-Romero suggested that the city consider using Hart Plaza as an organized gathering space for young people.

"That usually is not a space that is as active as I believe it could be," she said.

Campus Martius, Santiago-Romero said, is essentially roped off and not welcoming for individuals under 21.

"We need a space where you're not roped off for being young," she said. "We have a lot of space and we have a lot of downtown. I think we can do this."

Detroit transit ambassador Michael Cunningham praised Sheffield for the "awesome" free bus offering for students, but he doesn't expect the rollout to be without challenges.

Cunningham said it will be important to have a surplus of volunteers on hand, restrictions on days and times for the bus travel and signage for folks who need to report any problems that might arise, especially in the summertime and later at night.

"I'm not saying our youth are bad, but … some of them have no respect for elders at all like we did," he said.

DDOT Executive Director of Transit Robert Cramer told BridgeDetroit on Monday, following a press conference about the Ride to Rise program, that the Detroit Police Department has a transit unit with officers who can be deployed.

"If we hear, 'Hey, there's a certain bus at a certain time where it seems like there's more trouble or kids are feeling less safe,' then we could have more random boardings come onto those buses," he said.

The longer-term idea, however, is to develop an "ambassador program" – adults who would ride buses to help students feel more secure – and potentially collaborate with Community Violence Intervention (CVI), social service groups, crossing guards, or DDOT staff.

Students were able to access the free DDOT rides on April 1, during spring break. The more formal launch was Monday, April 6, when the school session resumed, according to the city.

Councilman Denzel McCampbell on Monday echoed Santiago-Romero's concern for embracing youth who visit downtown, noting that unlike the malls, arcades and skate parks of the past, there aren't enough places for young folks to gather and have fun today.

"We need to increase more opportunities for young people and the other aspect is how we react to young people as they gather," said McCampbell, pointing to the importance of Community Violence Intervention groups, peer educators and others. "We need more of these folks to say, 'Hey, do you need anything?'"

McCampbell said he too is looking forward to conversations with the administration on what can be done to give young people more to do and to ensure "we're not penalizing them for also wanting to be a part of what we all have been taking part in downtown."

An inquiry to the Detroit Police Department about detainments and tickets for youth over the weekend was not immediately returned.

Council Member Mary Waters, who also serves on the Public Health and Safety committee, said the downtown was "electric" over the weekend, and that she hopes that tickets weren't given out to young people.

"The young people were everywhere. The city felt alive. I am not anti having young people out," she said. "I hope this is something we can figure out … so they can feel they are a part of this downtown and this Detroit. We've got to make it happen for them. Otherwise, they go to other cities and we lose them."

Christine Ferretti is an award-winning journalist with more than 20 years of reporting and editing experience at one of Michigan's largest daily newspapers. Ferretti earned a bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations from Madonna University. She was a National Press Foundation fellow on public and private pensions and took part in a fellowship program through Michigan State University's Great Lakes Environmental Journalism Training Institute. – Reporter Nushrat Rahman contributed

"Hart Plaza usually is not a space that is as active as I believe it could be," said City Council member Santiago-Romero

Is Your Air Safe?

A guide to cumulative pollution impact in Southwest Detroit

By Isabelle Tavares for Planet Detroit – Reprinted with permission

Overview:

- Residents in Southwest Detroit are exposed to 58 air pollution sources within a 3-mile radius, according to EPA data tracked by Planet Detroit.
- The Protecting Overburdened Communities Act would require Michigan to assess total regional health impacts before issuing new facility permits.
- Southwest Detroit resident Maria Salinas says "it's a great neighborhood except for the pollution," adding that her house is always dusty and she hears lots of trucks.

Alexandra Castro, 24, loved her upbringing in Southwest Detroit, close to culture, small businesses, and family and friends in her Springwells neighborhood. As she grew older, she said she noticed her area isn't the "cleanest" place to live.

Residents like Castro live in an area of Detroit that has prioritized industry for decades. Their daily life is shaped by the dozens of facilities that pollute the air around their homes, schools, parks, and places of worship.

"This past year I had the worst case of seasonal allergies I have ever experienced. I had severe congestion, eczema, and a runny nose for over a month," Castro said. "It decreased my quality of life and made me miserable."

Within a 3-mile radius of the church where the Springdale-Woodmere block club meets, residents are exposed to 58 sources of air pollution, according to Planet Detroit's air quality tracker, which uses Environmental Protection Agency data.

Four facilities have high priority air quality violations, one has a recent violation, and 53 sources are compliant, according to the EPA database that tracks enforcement and compliance actions for facilities regulated under the Clean Air Act.

This concentrated exposure from multiple sources is what is referred to as cumulative impact.

The EPA defines cumulative impacts as "the totality of exposures to combinations of chemical and nonchemical stressors and their effects on health, well-being, and quality of life outcomes."

Civic Action Toolbox

Why it matters

Southwest Detroit residents are breathing pollution from dozens of industrial facilities simultaneously, causing health problems that state permitting rules can't always address.

Who's making public decisions

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) makes permitting decisions for industrial facilities, while the Michigan Legislature will decide whether to pass the Protecting Overburdened Communities Act requiring cumulative impact assessments.

Open Comment Periods

Deadline for public comment period for the Draft Addendum to the Request for Redesignation to Attainment for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Southeast Michigan Nonattainment Area (EGLE) Deadline: Apr 21, 2026 N/A Wednesday, April 22, 2026 The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Air Quality Division is seeking public comment.

Contact Your Representatives

- **Stephanie Chang** (D) State Senator, District 3 senschang@senate.michigan.gov
- **Donavan McKinney** (D) State Representative, District 11 donavanmckinney@house.mi.gov

Organizations to Follow

- Sierra Club Michigan
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Great Lakes Environmental Law Center
- Michigan Environmental Council

What to watch for next

Whether the Michigan Legislature passes the Protecting Overburdened Communities Act (SB 479 and HB 4742) that would require EGLE to consider total regional health impacts before approving new pollution permits.

I'm taking civic action!

A bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature aims to change the way facilities are permitted by requiring the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to consider the total regional health impact of multiple pollution sources, such as industrial facilities and truck traffic.

State Rep. Donavan McKinney and Sen. Stephanie Chang, both Detroit Democrats, introduced the Protecting Overburdened Communities Act in July 2025.

As President Donald Trump rolls back environmental protections and hands out pollution exemptions to facilities like DTE Energy's EES Coke Battery on Zug Island, some Southwest residents like Donald Spurr, 78 — who survived throat and lung cancer — are asking, "when will it get better?"

How does Michigan regulate cumulative impacts?

A cumulative impact assessment involves analyzing quantitative and qualitative data to characterize the total, combined effects of sustained exposure to pollution stressors, according to the EPA.

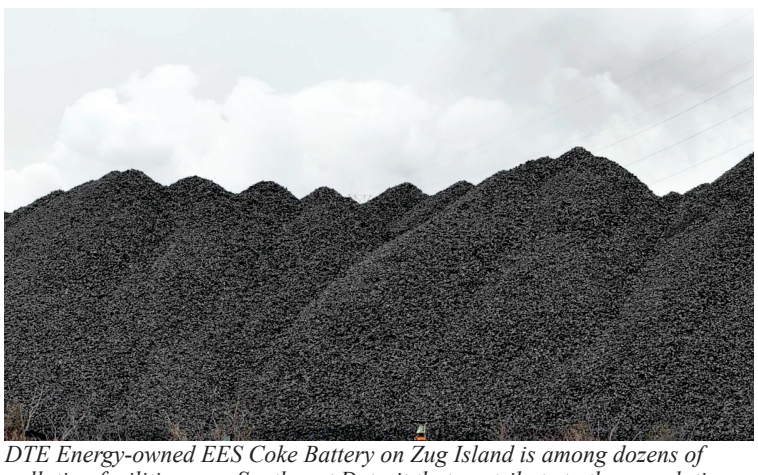
In a statement, EGLE spokesperson Josef Stephens said the state can't use a cumulative impact analysis that considers "all the ways a person may be exposed to pollutants.

"EGLE considers the existing presence of certain pollutants from nearby sources including small and large sources, and outdoor air," the spokesperson said.

To obtain a permit from the state of Michigan, a facility must simulate its potential quantity of toxic air emissions, which must meet the EPA's health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards designed to protect sensitive populations, Stephens said.

"These rules allow us to look at the aggregated impact of certain chemicals … which bioaccumulate in the environment, such as mercury."

Bills introduced in the Michigan Legislature would require the state's environmental regulator to conduct cumulative impact assessments. What does this mean for environmentally burdened Southwest Detroit?



DTE Energy-owned EES Coke Battery on Zug Island is among dozens of polluting facilities near Southwest Detroit that contribute to the cumulative impact on residents' health. Photo by Isabelle Tavares/Planet Detroit.

EGLE does not have the statutory authority to consider a cumulative impact analysis, Stephens said.

Zug Island permit OK'ed with air quality violation, federal lawsuit pending

In June 2025, EGLE approved a permit for a secondary coke screener at EES Coke Battery eight days after issuing an air quality violation notice to the facility.

The Zug Island company is the subject of a federal lawsuit brought by the EPA in which a U.S. district judge found DTE responsible for Clean Air Act violations by the facility.

In March, DTE asked the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to review a $100-million federal court judgment ordered after a bench trial of the case, which was filed over sulfur dioxide pollution.

Stephens said the air quality violation issued last summer and federal lawsuit are unrelated to the 2025 permit approval. EGLE does not have the legal authority to deny a permit if the proposal complies with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, the spokesperson said.

"The application for the secondary screener complied with all applicable state and federal regulations. Although unrelated specifically to any noncompliance, there were additional controls added to the final permit to further reduce particulates."

The new screener will emit 1.6 tons of particulate matter, 0.82 tons of PM10 and 0.23 tons of fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, per year, according to an EGLE fact sheet.

If the project emitted 10 tons or more per year of fine particulate matter, it would be subject to additional regulations, according to state regulators.

The secondary screener is not an expansion of the facility, EES Coke Battery Vice President David Smith said in a statement to Planet Detroit at the time of the permit approval.

The screener will be "operated within an enclosed building and using foam suppressant to prevent particulate from becoming airborne," he said.

"This new equipment is planned to perform in-plant screening of a portion of the product that is currently processed at a different location, thereby reducing emissions from transportation."

The facility has "complied with all regulations governing the site at the state and federal level that protect public health," Smith said, adding that EES Coke Battery supplies the steel industry and supports more than 170 jobs.

How Michigan regulators weigh air quality violations in permitting process

In response to public comments submitted to the state during the EES Coke Battery permit approval process last year, EGLE said a company's compliance record cannot be considered when deciding whether to approve a permit.

"By law, we must base that decision on whether all applicable state and federal air quality rules and regulations will be met, and if so, the permit must be issued," Grace Knauss, environmental engineer in EGLE's Air Quality Division, wrote in the document.

Stephens said in the instance of EES Coke Battery's secondary coke screener permit, regulations do not allow consideration of the company's compliance history, as the screener application "has nothing to do with" the history of noncompliance.

At the same time, EGLE always considers a company's compliance history in its decisions, Stephens said.

When asked about the discrepancy between EGLE's inability to consider EES Coke Battery's compliance history with last year's permit and the statement that compliance history is always considered by EGLE, Stephens said the distinction depends on the application at hand.

A "history of noncompliance is considered when it is pertinent to the permit application," the EGLE spokesperson said. "For instance, a company in violation of an emission limit in an existing permit. Part of their compliance plan may be to update their permit."

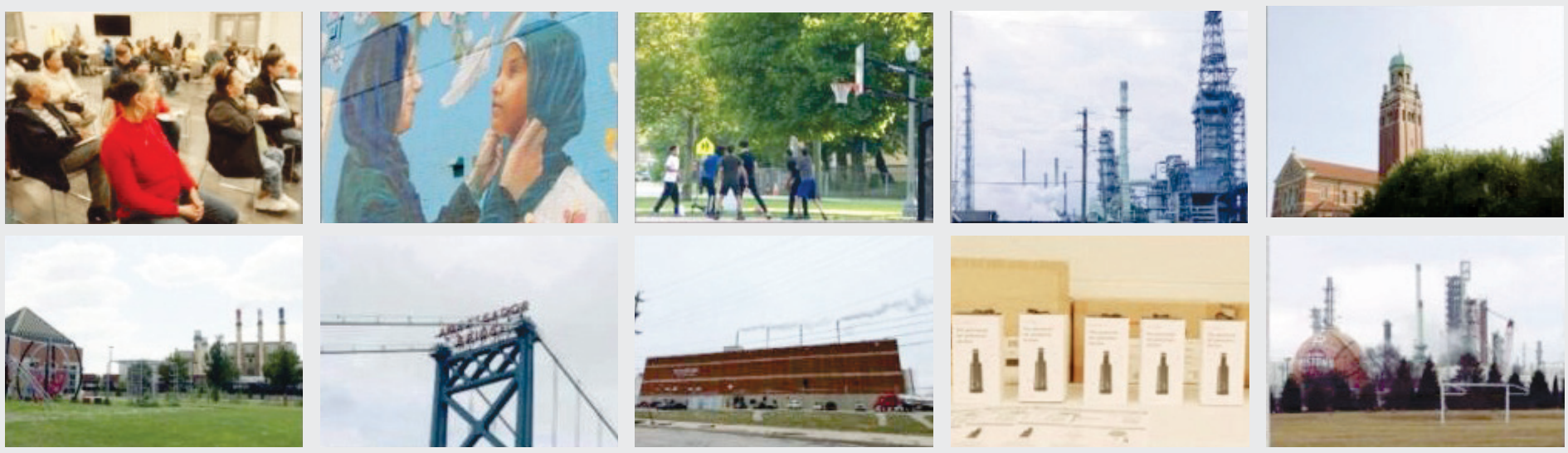
EGLE may consider adding additional testing or record-keeping to any new permit issued, Stephens said.

"In any case, the company must still meet all air quality rules and regulations for a permit to be issued."

EGLE can take additional action against a facility with significant noncompliance issues, including an administrative or civil enforcement action to address violations, deter future noncompliance, and bring a facility back into compliance, Stephens said.

Get to know the air quality index

Detroit faces significant air pollution. Planet Detroit's guide to air quality (planetdetroit.org/2025/07/detroit-air-quality-guide) addresses how to interpret the



Detroiters' daily lives are shaped by industry that pollutes the air around their homes, schools, parks, and places of worship. Photos by Reel Clever Films and Isabelle Tavares.

air quality index and includes information on the six criteria air pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act.

The air quality index is a rating system that shows the severity of pollution in the air on a scale from zero to 500, a calculation made by the EPA.

The rating measures five major pollutants: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

Ground-level ozone and particulate matter are the most widespread and pose the greatest risk to health, according to the American Lung Association.

"Measurements of the five major pollutants are calculated into the zero to 500 scale to give you one number that reflects how healthy the air is to breathe that day," the association's website said.

An AQI value under 50 is considered good air quality, meaning that it's safe for anyone to spend time outdoors without risking their health. As the AQI number increases and the corresponding color code deepens, so do the risks.

Green: Good
Zero to 50 AQI – No advisory.

Yellow: Moderate
51 to 100 – Sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged outdoor activity.

Orange: Unhealthy for sensitive groups
101 to 150 – Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Red: Unhealthy
151 to 200 – Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Purple: Very Unhealthy
201 to 300 – Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit outdoor exertion.

Maroon: Hazardous
301 to 500 – Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

People who are considered sensitive include children under 18, adults over 65, people with chronic heart or lung disease, and people who are pregnant or have diabetes, according to the lung association.

Adults engaging in prolonged outdoor activities, such as outdoor workers and frequent exercisers, face a potentially higher risk due to extended exposure.

The fight for Michigan cumulative impact law

The Protecting Overburdened Communities Act introduced in the Michigan House and Senate by McKinney and Chang last year would require EGLE to assess pollution levels before issuing new permits in affected neighborhoods.

EGLE looks at individual pollution sources in isolation when granting air quality permits, McKinney said during a 2025 press conference.

"But that's not how it works in the real world," the state lawmaker said. "As we all know, we do not breathe one source of pollution at a time, and we experience the health harms of all the combined pollution we breathe."

Former state Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) introduced an earlier version of Chang and McKinney's cumulative impact legislation in 2024. This bill did not pass out of committee.

Southwest Detroit resident Maria Salinas said "it's a great neighborhood except for the pollution," adding that her house is always dusty and she hears lots of trucks.

"It's bad and going to get worse with having two international bridges," Salinas said.

Salinas has chronic asthma and uterine cancer, she said, adding that she attributes this to living in Southwest her entire life. She is the founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit Congress of Communities.

Salinas said she wants to see a cumulative impact health study of Southwest Detroit, and a health clinic that addresses the rise of asthma, cancer, and generational infertility she sees among residents.

Isabelle Tavares covers environmental and public health impacts in Southwest Detroit for Planet Detroit with Report for America. Working in text, film and audio, she is a Dominican-American storyteller who is concerned with identity, generational time, and ecology.

Detroit to Crack Down on 61 Apartments with Maintenance Issues

By Nushrat Rahman for Bridge Detroit – Reprinted with permission

Detroit city officials want dozens of apartment buildings with ongoing problems to get fixed up before they fall into further disrepair and put residents at risk.

The city has identified 61 multi-unit apartment buildings with "chronic" maintenance and compliance issues that have gone unaddressed, city officials from Detroit's law, health and building safety departments said during a recent press conference.

City leaders vowed to enact a coordinated process that includes joint inspections between the city's Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) and the Detroit Health Department, court-enforced consent agreements and placing liens on properties with multiple unpaid blight and code violation tickets.

Shoddy rental housing conditions have long been a concern for Detroiters. In recent months, the city of Detroit cracked down on Real Token, a blockchain real estate company, for public nuisance violations involving hundreds of residential properties in Detroit. Tenants of the Leland House have also gotten caught in the crosshairs, struggling to move out, as their apartment building went through bankruptcy.

"This is about being proactive and not reactive. It is about preventing displacement, protecting our families and holding landlords accountable before buildings reach a crisis point," Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield said during a news conference. "As mayor, I am committed to making sure that every Detroiter has a safe place to call home. And to those who continue to neglect their responsibilities, this administration wants to be very clear that the city of Detroit is stepping in and accountability is here."

Here's how the enforcement and legal strategy will work:

BSEED and health department will perform inspections together, monitoring buildings for structural safety and health risks, leaders said.

The city's law department and BSEED have identified 61 multi-unit apartment buildings with ongoing problems that have not been fixed. Thirty-four of the buildings are Real Token and the remaining 27 are Russell Woods Apartments LLC, Chapel Court, Imperial Manor and Pierre Apartment at various addresses, according to city officials and a list provided to the Free Press. A reporter attempted to reach representatives of the apartments. The law department will contact owners of each of the properties over the next several weeks to enter into court-monitored consent agreements. These agreements will include timelines for repairs. If owners fail to comply, the city will pursue legal action, including potentially taking control of the property as a public nuisance, BSEED Director David Bell said.

The city's department of appeals and hearings will begin placing liens on properties with "significant" unpaid blight violations, officials said. The liens will stay in place until violations are corrected.

"We know that the conditions that people live in shows up in their outcomes, whether that's asthma from mold or dampness, whether that's injuries from unsafe structures or the daily strain that families carry as a result of having that concern on their mind from unsafe structures that they live in," said Chief Public Health Officer Ali Abazeed.

(from left) Detroit Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallett, David Bell, Director of Detroit's Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department and Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield hold a news conference about a new enforcement effort. Photo courtesy of City of Detroit.

Sheffield's strategy is part of a broader push by her field administration to improve housing conditions. BSEED also has a goal of bringing 65 senior buildings into compliance by August 2026, the mayor has said. Detroit seniors have long rung the alarm on poor rental housing conditions, from mold infestation and vermin to lack of heat and inadequate security measures.

In 2024, Detroit City Council approved a proposal to overhaul the city's rental ordinance, an effort to crack down on negligent landlords and boost inspections. The ordinance increased fines for some violations and allowed the city to file a lien on a property for unpaid fees if a landlord didn't get into compliance −a provision officials had hoped would give more teeth to the ticketing process.

City officials at the time sought to bring rental compliance up from 10% to 20% to 30% with the change. Currently, 14% of rental properties in Detroit have a certificate of compliance, Bell said.

"We are hoping … to increase that by 25% to 35% in the next year," he said.

Nushrat Rahman covers issues and obstacles that influence economic mobility, primarily in Detroit, for the Detroit Free Press and BridgeDetroit, as a corps member with Report for America, a national service program placing journalists in local newsrooms across the country.
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EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

DCFC Continues Strong Start With Dominant 1-0 Victory Over Sporting Club Jacksonville

Photos by Adam J. Dewey, story by Detroit City Football Club

Detroit City FC extended its strong start to the 2026 USL Championship campaign with a 1-0 victory over expansion side Sporting Club Jacksonville on Saturday afternoon at Keyworth Stadium, riding an early Darren Smith strike and another composed defensive performance to all three points at home.

Le Rouge improved its position in the Eastern Conference thanks to a dominant display in possession and territory, with Smith's seventh-minute finish proving the difference on an afternoon when Detroit controlled the tempo from start to finish.

Le Rouge now turns its attention to U.S. Open Cup play, welcoming MLS side Chicago Fire to Keyworth Stadium on Tuesday, April 14, in the Round of 32. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on X, Facebook, and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from DCFC vs. Sporting Club Jacksonville

Tommy Silva (#33) defects a SC Jacksonville pass

Abdoulaye (#8) takes a boot to the ribs from SC Jacksonville defender after stumbling during an offensive attack

Alex Debu (#15) makes a pass up field

Ales Diouf (#32) takes a shot at goal

Tigers Sweep Marlins

Kevin McGonigle Sweeps the Fans and Dingler hits 3 "dingers" in final game of Series

Story and photos by Michael Alberts – El Central

The Detroit Tigers swept the Miami Marlins in the recent home series, outscoring the Marlins 16 runs to 3. In game 1, Javier Baez did the job with a solo home run. In game 2, it was Riley Greene's turn with a three-run homer and 4 RBIs. Then in game 3 it was Dillon Dingler with three homers, Kevin McGonigle with his first MLB homer, and Kerry Carpenter with a dinger. Game three of the series saw two Cy Young Award winners matched but Tarik Skubal out pitched Sandy Alcantara for the win Skubal was pitching a no-hit into the sixth inning with two outs when Austin Slater blooped a single. Alcantara allowed seven runs and ten hits, after allowing two earned runs and ten hits in his first three starts this year.

McGonigle is the youngest Tiger player to start on Opening Day in 23 years, his performance in the opener was stunning with a 4-for-5 performance. At 21 he has captured the imagination of fans in Detroit with a humble attitude and tremendous energy. McGonigle is being compared to hitters like Vladimir Guerrero Jr. for his skills at the plate. He seems to love being in Detroit and the Detroit fans are excited with his energy.

McGonigle on right and Dingler on left

City Eases Past Sporting Jax

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

A smothering defensive performance helped an early Darren Smith goal stand up as the narrowest margin of victory for Detroit City last weekend. A bigger win would have been deserved and would have been a better warmup for the big midweek US Open Cup match against the Chicago Fire.

DCFC's annual injury crisis may have seen some limited relief as Maxi Rodriguez returned to the bench against Sporting Jax, but he was spared a quicker than expected return to action by the solidity of the team's performance. But, there has still been no sign of Ben Morris, Michael Bryant or Ryan Williams, experienced players who will be missed.

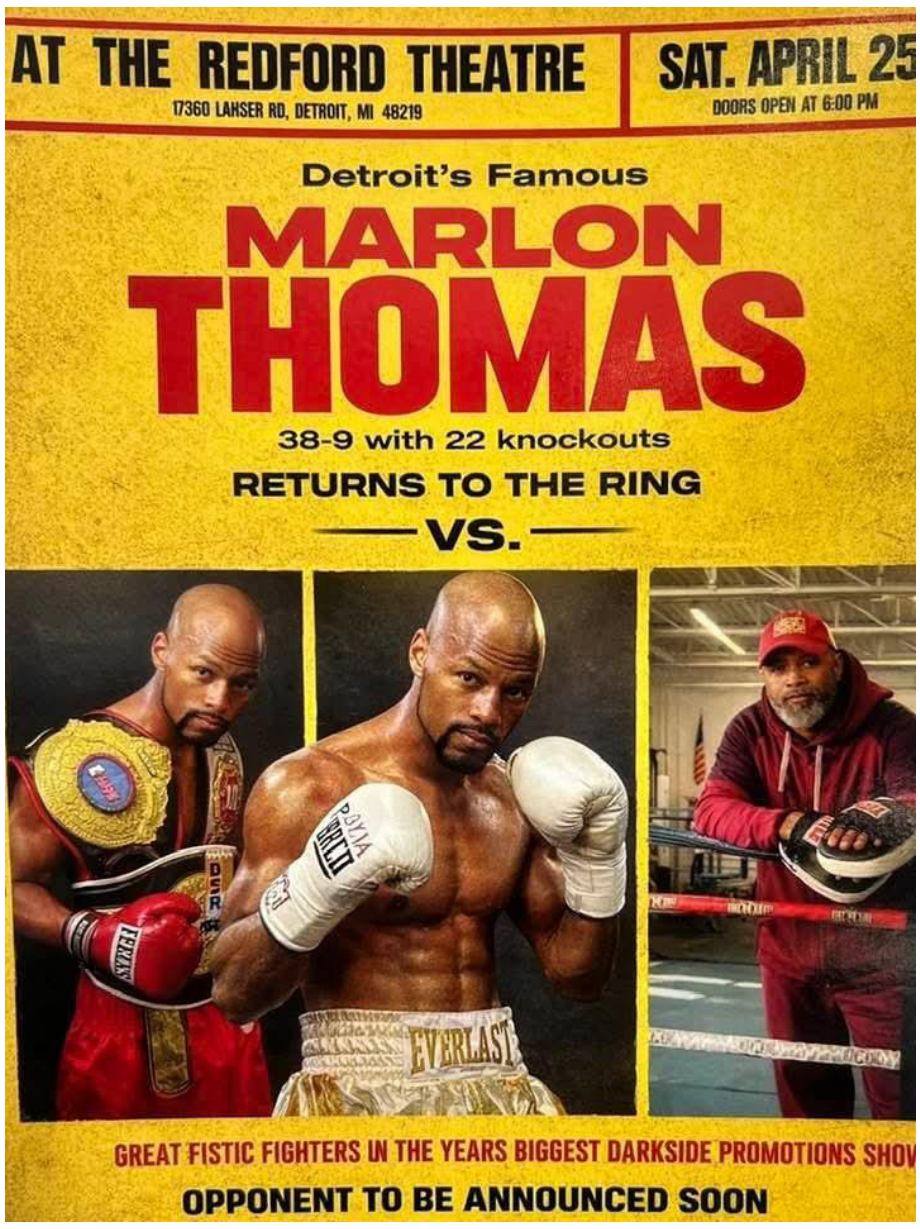
While Bryant's leadership at the back is difficult to replace, new signing Callum Montgomery has slotted in next to Devon Amoo-Mensah with no discernible drop in quality. Montogmery had his best game in a DCFC uniform against Sporting Jax on Saturday. At 6'3" he is the tallest player on the team and with his solid build, he can out-muscle most opposing players. That came in handy against the visitors, who are still looking for their first win. With a number of well-timed challenges, Montgomery helped DCFC shut out Sporting not only on the scoreboard, but also on the shot board. Carlos Herrera didn't face a single shot on goal.

When he wasn't busy stifling opponents, he posed a challenge on attacking set pieces. It was his towering header that came back off the goalpost in the sixth minute for Smith to tap in the game-winning goal. Smith leads the USL Championship with 5 goals, but he should be disappointed not to have added to that in the second half. With Sporting pushing forward, he had two clear breakaways but failed to beat Christian Olivares in the Jacksonville goal.

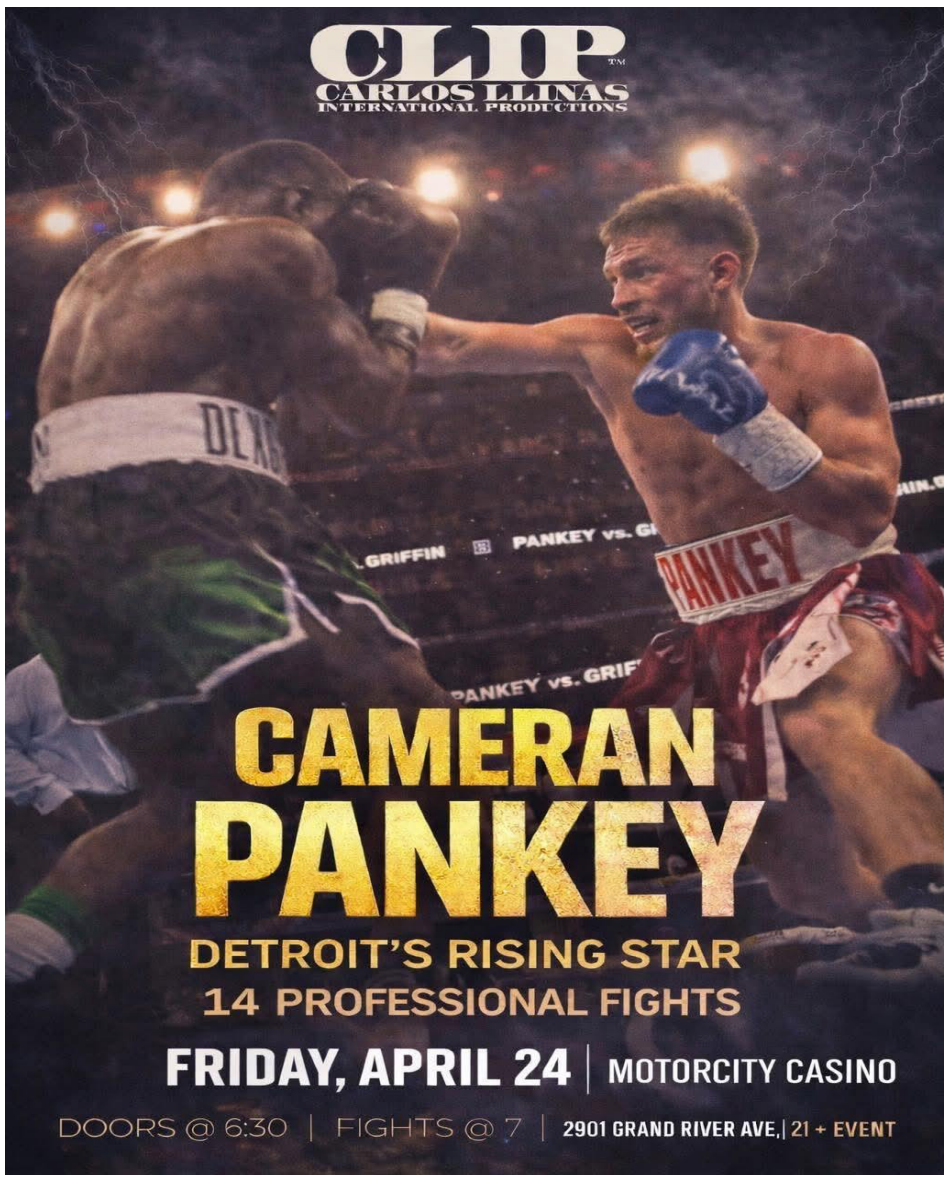
When DCFC faces the Chicago Fire in the Cup, those chances cannot be wasted. DCFC will be looking to turnaround last year's 4-0 shellacking in the Windy City. The Fire come into the game second in the Eastern Conference of MLS, ahead of Lionel Messi and Inter Miami amazingly, but behind Nashville SC. It won't be surprising if they rest many of their regular starters for this match. With the schedule cramped by the World Cup break taking up six weeks this summer, Fire boss Gregg Berhalter is probably not keen to risk his key players on an artificial surface for a midweek cup game. They have to travel to FC Cincinnati over the weekend and will see that as the more important game, after beating Atlanta United 1-0 last time out.

Open Cup games against MLS teams are a chance to fill Keyworth and showcase the team to people who may not be regular attendees. The club has had over 5,000 for every home game this season, but will be hoping to exceed 7,000 for the appearance of such an exalted rival. The Fire's last trip to Michigan for an Open Cup game didn't turn out well. They lost to the Michigan (now Flint City) Bucks in Auburn Hills. If DCFC can repeat the feat, they could host the next round as well. The winner will face the winner of the Tulsa FC v. St. Louis City game in the round of sixteen.

Once DCFC's cup obligations are completed, they will turn their attention to a rivalry game against the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. A trip to Highmark Stadium guarantees an intense match, especially after the Riverhounds eliminated DCFC in penalty kicks on their way to the USL Championship final last year. The teams and their fanbases treat this game as a derby even though they are a five hour drive apart. The Riverhounds will have one day less to recover from an Open Cup game as they travel to play the New York Red Bulls on Wednesday. Both teams will be looking to make an early statement in the race for playoff spots.



Upcoming Boxing Events



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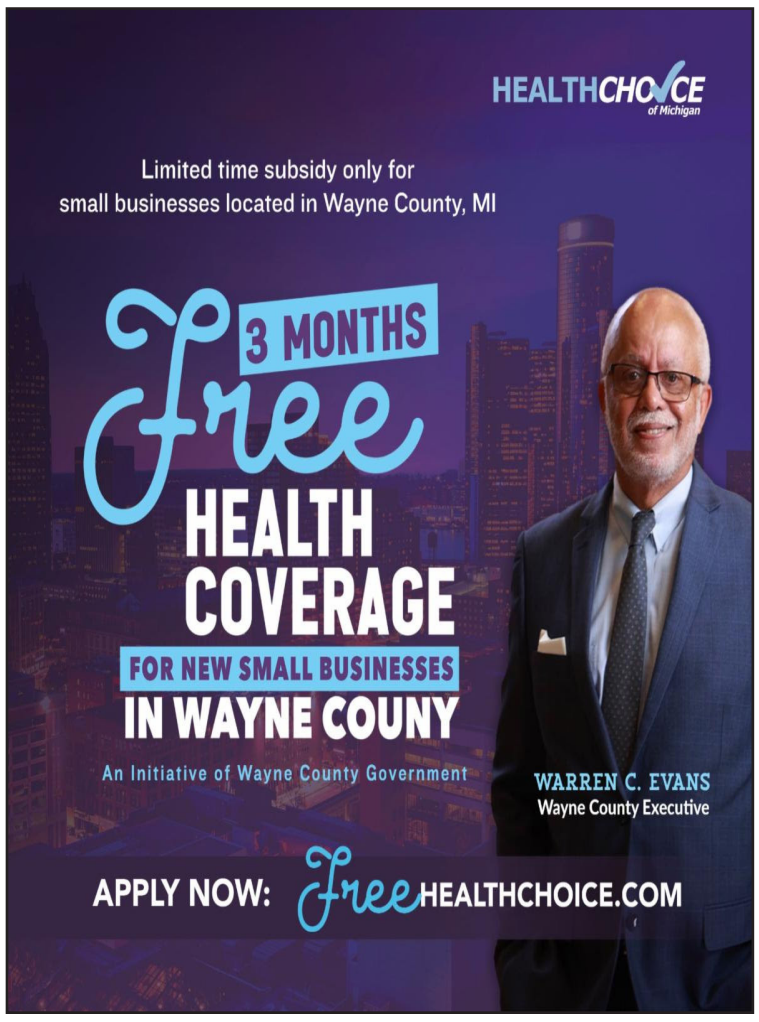

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Trump's God Complex is Getting Even Worse

He believes he's the savior, not because he wants to save anyone but because he wants to dominate everyone

By Robert Reich

Late last Sunday night, Trump posted on Truth Social the most grandiose depiction any U.S. president as ever made of himself.

I've reproduced it here. Take a look and remember: It came from Trump.

What kind of a president would post this of himself?

The next day, Trump told reporters that he posted it because he thought it depicted him as a physician. "I thought it was me as a doctor," he said, adding that news organizations had misinterpreted the image. "It's supposed to be me as a doctor, making people better, and I do make people better," he said.

There's something fundamentally wrong with the man.

Bishop William Shomali, the General Vicar of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, put it well when he said:

"The problem is not that [Trump] tries to emulate Jesus Christ, but rather that he tries to present himself as if he were a superhuman and great figure. If we consider Jesus Christ as a model, then we should emulate him—but that should be through his humility, spirit of service, and self-sacrifice, not through a desire for domination, authority, and marginalizing others."

Earlier Sunday, Trump lashed out at Pope Leo XIV, following the pontiff's public condemnation of the war in Iran. The pope had called Trump's threat to wipe out Iran's civilization "truly unacceptable."

Weirdly, Trump accused the leader of the Catholic Church of being weak on crime and catering to liberals. "Leo should get his act together as Pope, use Common Sense, stop catering to the Radical Left, and focus on being a Great Pope, not a Politician," Trump wrote in a Sunday night social-media post. "It's hurting him very badly and, more importantly, it's hurting the Catholic Church!"

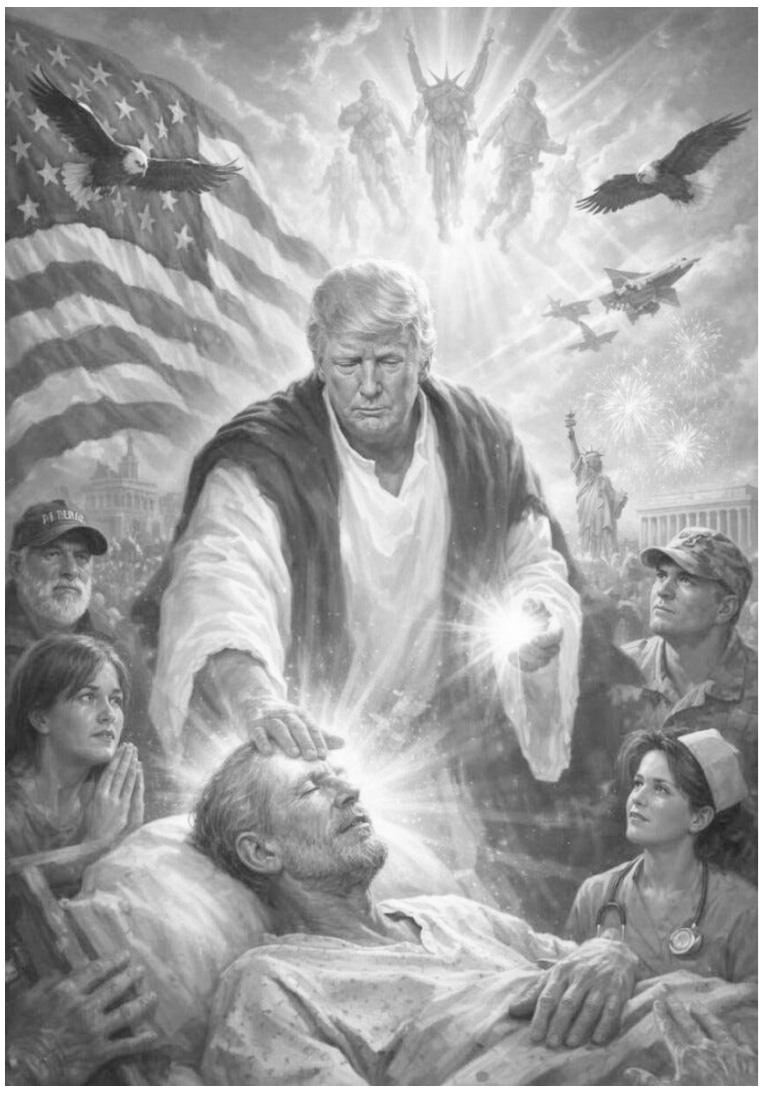
Trump also claimed that Leo, an American, was selected as pope last year because of Trump. "If I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican." The Catholic Church "thought that would be the best way to deal with President Donald J. Trump."

Trump's problem with Pope Leo is similar to the problem Henry VIII had with Pope Clement VII in 1531. Henry wanted to do whatever he wished but the Pope opposed Henry's moves (instead of destroying Iran, Henry sought to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon). So Henry established himself as the Supreme Head of the Church of England via the Act of Supremacy.

But in contrast to Trump, Henry didn't think of himself as the second-coming of Christ, didn't try to substitute his own likeness for that of Jesus, and wasn't president of a nation that calls itself a democracy.

It's hardly the first time Trump has revealed his God complex. He has referred to himself as "the chosen one." He's said he was anointed by the "supernatural hand" of God to win a second term in office. He's said "God saved me for a purpose." He has ordered his face to be etched on coins and placed on banners draped from government buildings, literally idolatrous moves.

But Trump's malignant narcissism is now utterly out of control. Attacking the Pope. Posting pictures of himself as Jesus. Claiming he won the war in Iran. The man has become delusional, violent, and dangerous.



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Opinión de un Invitado:

El complejo de Dios de Trump está empeorando aún más

Él cree ser el salvador, no porque quiera salvar a nadie, sino porque quiere dominar a todos.

Por Robert Reich

A última hora de la noche del domingo pasado, Trump publicó en Truth Social la descripción más grandiosa que jamás haya hecho de sí mismo un presidente de los Estados Unidos.

La he reproducido aquí. Échenle un vistazo y recuerden: provino de Trump.

¿Qué clase de presidente publicaría esto sobre sí mismo?

Al día siguiente, Trump dijo a los periodistas que lo había publicado porque creía que lo representaba como médico. «Pensé que era yo haciendo de médico», afirmó, añadiendo que los medios de comunicación habían malinterpretado la imagen. «Se supone que soy yo como médico, curando a la gente, y de hecho yo curo a la gente», dijo.

Hay algo fundamentalmente mal en este hombre.

El obispo William Shomali, vicario general del Patriarcado Latino de Jerusalén, lo expresó muy bien al decir:

«El problema no es que [Trump] intente emular a Jesucristo, sino más bien que intente presentarse a sí mismo como si fuera una figura sobrehumana y grandiosa. Si consideramos a Jesucristo como un modelo, entonces deberíamos emularlo; pero eso debería hacerse a través de su humildad, su espíritu de servicio y su abnegación, y no a través de un deseo de dominación, autoridad y marginación de los demás».

Más temprano ese domingo, Trump arremetió contra el papa León XIV, tras la condena pública del pontífice a la guerra en Irán. El papa había calificado la amenaza de Trump de aniquilar la civilización de Irán como «verdaderamente inaceptable».

Curiosamente, Trump acusó al líder de la Iglesia católica de ser blando con la delincuencia y de complacer a los liberales. «León debería poner orden en su labor como papa, usar el sentido común, dejar de complacer a la izquierda radical y centrarse en ser un gran papa, no un político», escribió Trump en una publicación en redes sociales el domingo por la noche. «¡Eso le está perjudicando gravemente y, lo que es más importante, está perjudicando a la Iglesia católica!».

Trump también afirmó que León —quien es estadounidense— fue elegido papa el año pasado gracias a él. «Si yo no hubiera estado en la Casa Blanca, León no estaría en el Vaticano». La Iglesia católica «pensó que esa sería la mejor manera de tratar con el presidente Donald J. Trump».

El problema de Trump con el papa León es similar al problema que Enrique VIII tuvo con el papa Clemente VII en 1531. Enrique quería hacer lo que se le antojara, pero el Papa se opuso a las acciones de Enrique (en lugar de destruir a Irán, Enrique buscaba anular su matrimonio con Catalina de Aragón). Así que Enrique se estableció a sí mismo como la Cabeza Suprema de la Iglesia de Inglaterra mediante el Acta de Supremacía.

Pero, a diferencia de Trump, Enrique no se consideraba a sí mismo la segunda venida de Cristo, no intentó sustituir la imagen de Jesús por la suya propia y no era presidente de una nación que se autodenomina democracia.

No es, ni mucho menos, la primera vez que Trump revela su complejo de Dios. Se ha referido a sí mismo como «el elegido». Ha dicho que fue ungido por la «mano sobrenatural» de Dios para ganar un segundo mandato. Ha dicho: «Dios me salvó con un propósito». Ha ordenado que su rostro sea grabado en monedas y colocado en pancartas colgadas de edificios gubernamentales; acciones literalmente idólatras.

Pero el narcisismo maligno de Trump está ahora totalmente fuera de control. Atacar al Papa. Publicar fotografías de sí mismo caracterizado como Jesús. Afirmar que ganó la guerra en Irán. El hombre se ha vuelto delirante, violento y peligroso.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES
Cuba

A Cuban Chess Genius: José Raúl Capablanca y Graupera

In Havana, Cuba, on November 19, 1888, his talent first emerged as he watched his father, José María Capablanca Fernández, play chess. On one occasion, at just four years old, he reproduced with remarkable accuracy a game his father had just played against General Loño. The young prodigy pointed out that his father had made an illegal move, which earned him a reprimand. However, to his father's surprise, he replayed the game twice and, at the critical position, demonstrated again and again that the knight's move had indeed been illegal. As a result, his father rewarded him upon turning five by taking him to play at the Havana Chess Club.

Not long after, in 1901, at only 13 years old, he competed in the Cuban National Tournament, achieving his first major success by defeating the champion Juan Corzo with a score of +4, -3, =6.

With the support of his patron Ramón San Pelayo, he began studying Chemical Engineering in the United States. However, his passion for chess led him to abandon his studies and instead spend his time at the Manhattan Chess Club. On the night of April 6, 1906, he won a blitz tournament there, defeating several opponents, including the reigning World Champion, the German Emanuel Lasker, who remarked: "You are a remarkable young man—you made no mistakes."

Following a series of victories in the United States—including a win against American champion Frank Marshall, who greatly admired his talent and recommended him for a prestigious tournament in San Sebastián, Spain—Capablanca faced many of the world's leading players. Some participants initially objected to his inclusion, citing his limited record in major tournaments, particularly the Russian Bernstein and the Latvian Nimzowitsch. Nevertheless, the judges ultimately accepted him. During the event, Capablanca faced both critics and defeated them brilliantly. He went on to win the tournament with a score of +6, -1, =6, surpassing renowned players such as Rubinstein, Schlechter, and Tarrasch.

In 1921, he claimed the World Chess Championship from Emanuel Lasker in a match held in Havana, with a score of +4, -0, =10.

After several years without losing a single game, he was eventually defeated by his great rival, the Russian Alexander Alekhine, who never granted him a rematch.

Capablanca passed away on March 7, 1942, at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York due to heart-related issues.

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

Recipe: Chicken Gizzards in Sauce

Ingredients

1 lb cleaned chicken gizzards
1 medium white onion
1 ripe medium tomato
1 medium carrot
1 medium green bell pepper
3–4 garlic cloves
1 small glass (100 ml) white wine
Extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp (5 g) turmeric
Oregano to taste
Black pepper to taste
1 bay leaf
Salt to taste
Juice of one lemon

Instructions

Soak the chicken gizzards in lemon juice with a little water for just over 30 minutes.

After that time, rinse them well again, drain, and set aside.

In a pressure cooker, add a drizzle of olive oil and place the chopped onion, carrot, garlic, and bell pepper (all previously peeled and washed). Sauté for a few minutes, then add the gizzards. Once they begin to brown, add the tomato, washed and chopped into small pieces with the skin on.

Season with salt and pepper, then add the remaining spices and the bay leaf. Stir well and pour in the wine. Let it evaporate, then add enough water to cover the ingredients by about one inch. Close the pressure cooker, and once it starts to whistle, reduce the heat and cook for 30 to 45 minutes.

After releasing the pressure, open the pot and keep the gizzards warm. Blend the sauce until smooth and creamy. Return everything to the pot or transfer to a saucepan over low heat.

Serve hot with a side of avocado and rice, or with a good loaf bread to soak up the sauce.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Topes de Collantes

Topes de Collantes is located in central Cuba, in the Escambray Mountains, about 800 meters above sea level. It is a natural area made up of mountains, rivers, valleys, and caves in their pristine state. Thanks to its rich variety of endemic species, its beautiful waterfalls and cascades, and a unique microclimate that supports the growth of diverse trees and fruits, it is considered one of Cuba's largest protected natural areas.

The residents of Topes de Collantes, together with local authorities, actively ensure the conservation and reproduction of the area's natural species and resources. It has become an ideal natural park for relaxation and for fully immersing oneself in nature, as well as for hiking and mountaineering. It is a natural sanctuary that offers an escape from everyday stress and invites visitors into a different reality—a moment to breathe fresh air, take stunning photos, admire breathtaking views, and feel truly connected to nature.

One of the features that sets Topes de Collantes apart, beyond its waterfalls and cascades, is its lush vegetation and endemic wildlife. Keep an eye out for beautiful Cuban birds such as the iconic tocororo, the national bird, whose plumage displays the colors of the Cuban flag: red, white, and blue. You may also spot parrots, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, and the sijú, among many other species that inhabit these landscapes.

There are numerous trails and hidden paths throughout this vast park. The most recommended and reliable for visitors is the Caburní Trail. Along its 2.5-kilometer route, you will come across small homes nestled in the forest, expansive coffee plantations, and abundant flora and fauna, all leading to the Caburní River. There, you will be amazed by an impressive 62-meter waterfall, set within one of the most important and beautiful settings in the area. Of course, you can also take a refreshing swim in one of the natural pools after the hike and the tropical heat.

Another option is the Hacienda Codina route, one of the most popular among visitors. Here, you will find a ranch offering medicinal mud baths, as well as spaces for yoga, an extensive orchid collection, the Altar Cave, and Lovers' Island. The tour concludes at a natural viewpoint overlooking the Escambray Mountains, the Valley of the Sugar Mills, and the beautiful city of Trinidad.

There are also more challenging trails, but equally rewarding, such as the Ecological Trail and the Vegas Grandes trail, which ends at the Salto de Soroa waterfall. You can also visit La Batata, a scenic spot ideal for relaxation in its medicinal waters.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Cuba

Un genio cubano del ajedrez: José Raúl Capablanca y Graupera

En la Habana, Cuba, un 19 de noviembre de 1888, su talento se inició viendo jugar a su padre José María Capablanca Fernández. En una ocasión, contando con tan solo 4 años de edad, reprodujo con una extraordinaria precisión una partida que su padre había terminado de jugar con el general Loño. El joven genio, le indicó a su padre que había hecho una jugada ilegal, lo que le valió una reprimenda, sin embargo, para sorpresa de su padre, reprodujo dos veces la partida y en la posición crítica, le demostró una y otra vez, la ilegalidad del movimiento de un caballo. De esta manera, su padre lo premió al cumplir 5 años de edad, llevándolo a jugar al Club de Ajedrez de la Habana. Poco tiempo después, en 1901, contando con tan solo 13 años, compitió en el Torneo Nacional de Cuba, alcanzando su primer gran triunfo, al derrotar al campeón Juan Corzo con un marcador de +4, -3, =6.

Con la ayuda del mecenas Ramón San Pelayo, inició sus estudios de Ingeniería Química en los Estados Unidos, sin embargo su pasión por el ajedrez, lo impulsó a abandonar sus estudios y en cambio pasó a frecuentar el Club de Ajedrez de Manhattan,

donde la noche del 6 de abril de 1906, resultó vencedor de en un torneo relámpago, contándose entre los adversarios derrotados al mismísimo Campeón del Mundo el alemán Emmanuel Lasker, quién expresó: "Es notable joven, usted no ha cometido errores".

Después de continuos triunfos en los Estados Unidos, entre los que derrotó al campeón Estadounidense Frank Marshall, quién admirado de su talento, lo recomendó para jugar un famoso torneo en San Sebastián, España, que tenía la mayoría de las celebridades del mundo, algunos de ellos, objetaron la poca trascendencia de triunfos en torneos importantes de Capablanca, especialmente objetaron el ruso Berstein y el letón Nimzowitsch, finalmente los jueces aceptaron su inclusión. El torneo enfrentó a Capablanca con ambos opositores, derrotándolos con brillantéz, finalmente, el torneo lo ganó con un marcador de +6, -1, =6, superando a jugadores como Rubinstein, Schlechter y Tarrasch.

En 1921 le arrebató el título de Campeón Mundial a Emmanuel Lasker en un match que se jugó en la Habana, con un marcador de +4, -0, =10.

Después de varios años de no perder una sola partida, al fin fue vencido por su gran rival el ruso Alexander Alekhine, quién nunca le concedió la revancha.

Capablanca falleció el 7 de marzo de 1942 en el Club de Ajedrez de Manhattan en Nueva York por problemas cardiacos.

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

Receta Mollejas de pollo en salsa

Ingredientes

1 libra) de mollejas de pollo limpias,
Chicken gizzards
1 cebolla blanca mediana
1 tomate mediano maduro
1 zanahoria mediana
1 pimiento morrón verde mediano
3 ó 4 dientes de ajo
1 vasito (100 mililitros) de vino blanco
1 aceite de oliva virgen extra
1 cdita ó 5 gramos de cúrcuma
Orégano al gusto
Pimienta al gusto
1 hoja de laurel.
Sal al gustol
Jugo de un limón

Preparación

Deje las mollejas en remojo con el jugo de limón y un poquito de agua durante algo más de media hora.

Pasado ese tiempo, vuelva a lavar bien, escurra y reserve.

En la olla de presión, añada un chorrito de aceite de oliva y coloque la cebolla cortada en trozos, la zanahoria, el ajo y el pimiento; todo pelado y lavado previamente, lo sofríe unos minutos y añada las mollejas. Cuando comiencen a dorarse agregue el tomate, lavado y cortado en trocitos con su piel.

Salpimentar y agregar el resto de especias y el laurel. Remover y añadir el vino. Deje evaporar y a continuación cúbralas de agua un dedo por encima. Tapar la olla y cuando comience a silbar bajar el fuego y cocinar entre 30 y 45 minutos.

Después de descomprimir, abra la olla y reserve las mollejas al calor. Pasar la salsa por la batidora hasta formar una crema. Ponga todo de nuevo en la olla o una cazuela a fuego bajo.

Servir bien calientes junto a una guarnición de ensalada de aguacate y arroz integral cocido, o una buena barra de pan integral para mojar en la salsa.

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EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

Topes de Collantes

Topes de Collantes se encuentra en el centro de Cuba, en la Sierra del Escambray y a 800 metros sobre el nivel del mar. Se trata de un conjunto de montañas, ríos, valles y cuevas en su estado natural. Debido a la gran cantidad de especies endémicas, sus hermosos saltos y cascadas y un microclima ideal para el florecimiento de árboles y frutos varios, esta es una de las mayores zonas naturales protegidas de Cuba.

Los pobladores de Topes de Collantes, junto al gobierno de la zona, garantizan la conservación y reproducción de las especies y riquezas naturales del sitio. Este se ha convertido en el parque natural ideal para la relajación y el contacto exclusivo con la naturaleza, para el senderismo y el montañismo. Es un reservorio natural que aleja del estrés cotidiano y permite adentrarse en otra realidad. Es un momento para respirar aire puro, tomar hermosas fotos, estremecerse con las vistas y sentirse parte de la propia naturaleza.

Si hay algo que distingue a Topes de Collantes, además de sus saltos y cascadas, es la exuberante vegetación y sus especies endémicas. Esté bien atento para captar las hermosas aves cubanas como el simbólico tocororo, ave nacional que exhibe en su plumaje los colores de la bandera cubana: rojo, blanco y azul. Podrá contemplar, además, cotorras, colibríes, el carpintero, el sijú, entre tantas otras aves que revolotean por eso parajes.

Muchos son los senderos y entresijos de este gran parque. El más recomendado y fiable para los viajeros es el Sendero de Caburní. En 2 kilómetros y medio de recorrido encontrará pequeñas casas de pobladores en el medio del bosque, extensas zonas de plantación de café, abundante vegetación y fauna por doquier hasta llegar al río Caburní. Se admirará de la impresionante cascada, con una caída de 62 metros, presidiendo uno de los entornos más importantes y bellos del lugar. Por supuesto que podrá bañarse en alguna de las piscinas naturales para refrescarse del intenso calor y la caminata.

Otra opción es la ruta de la Hacienda Codina, una de las más visitadas por los viajeros. Aquí encontrará un rancho con baños de lodo medicinales, además de sitios para hacer yoga, una vasta colección de orquídeas, la Cueva del Altar y la Isla de los Enamorados. El recorrido concluye en un mirador natural desde donde se puede observar la Sierra del Escambray, el Valle de los Ingenios y la hermosa ciudad de Trinidad.

Existen otros senderos más dificultosos, pero igualmente interesantes, como el Sendero Ecológico o el de Vegas Grandes que finaliza en el Salto de Soroa. También puede conocer el paraje de La Batata, perfecto para un momento de relajamiento en sus aguas medicinales.

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